GOVERNMENT
OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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TUESDAY

MARCH 7, 2023

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The District of Columbia Board of Elections convened via Video Teleconference, pursuant to notice at 10:30 a.m. EST, Gary Thompson, Chair, presiding.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEMBERS PRESENT:

GARY THOMPSON, Chair J.C. BOGGS, Member

BOARD OF ELECTIONS STAFF PRESENT:

MONICA HOLMAN EVANS, Director TERRI STROUD, General Counsel WILLIAM SANFORD, General Counsel

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1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-T-N-G-S 2 (10:31 a.m.)3 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. 4 morning, everybody. I think we have a court 5 reporter on as well. If that person could confirm, please. All right. Thank you so much. 6 7 All right. Good morning, everybody. 8 Thanks for joining us. It is Tuesday, March 9 7th. This is our regular monthly meeting. My 10 name is Gary Thompson, Chair of the Board of 11 Elections. 12 With me is J.C. Boggs, also on the 13 There are two of us out of three so we Board. 14 have a quorum. We will proceed with business. 15 The first thing we do is adopt our agenda which 16 is very light today. I'll move the agenda. All 17 in favor? 18 Second it. Yes, aye. MEMBER BOGGS: 19 All right. CHAIR THOMPSON: It is 20 moved. 21 Quick housekeeping thing. The 22 minutes from our last meeting have been

distributed. We've had a chance to review them and at this time I would move that we adopt those minutes.

MEMBER BOGGS: Second that.

CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay. All agree?

MEMBER BOGGS: Aye.

CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay. So our minutes have been adopted. There is nothing on our agenda before we get to the Executive Director's Report. I'll just say that in an off-election year the work of the Board -- the three-member Board itself is relatively light compared to an election year because we don't typically hear petition challenges and valid access issues, which we heard a lot of in 2022.

Our work is relatively light, but I know the Board and the OCF staff are all working extremely hard on a lot of issues in the wake of last year's election, and especially as we turn our attention towards the 2024 elections with a pretty heavy workload in process and ahead of us on a lot of things.

1	I just want to continue to thank
2	everybody from the Executive Director Monica
3	Evans and everybody else on the whole staff for
4	all your continuing hard work on so many
5	important matters; to register more voters, to
6	improve the voter registration role, to do
7	everything that we can do to position ourselves
8	to succeed again in the next election cycle.
9	Just some words of gratitude.
10	I don't know, J.C., if you want to add
11	anything before we ask Director Evans to proceed.
12	MEMBER BOGGS: We can proceed.
13	CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay. All right.
14	It's time for the Executive Director's report.
15	MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good morning.
16	The first order of business, we finalized and
17	submitted our 2022 Election Administration and
18	Voting Survey (EAVS). That was submitted to the
19	EAC (Election Assistance Commission.)
20	This report published by the EAC
21	presents data compiled from jurisdictions and

presented an aggregate. This EAC report includes

types of voting, registration numbers, and voting rates.

The Election Assistance Commission also closed the submission period for 2022 Clearing House Awards. The submission period was open from January 17th through February 28th. We submitted four:

Outstanding election official state association program or local office programming for a Restore the Vote program. Improving accessibility for voters with disabilities.

A Work Coordinator Senior Ballot Collection Program.

Best practices for recruiting, retaining, and training co-workers with our online training and learning module. And then creative and original "I Voted" sticker we submitted for our partnership with Monumental Sports.

We currently have 14 ANC vacancies for the 2023/2025 term. These positions are in different stages of being filled but after

candidate filing requirements are met, an open vote of registered voters of the affect SMD will be held during regularly scheduled ANC meetings.

As far as our 2023 next steps and off selection year planning, as previously mentioned, we are looking at the 2022 general election and exploring area of improvement and assessing the need for new equipment. We had a follow-up meeting with Ron Beck yesterday and VR Systems will be on site next week.

We are looking at returned and undeliverable ballots from the November election and placing them into categories of return.

Valid information is being entered into voter focus and ballots are still being delivered from USPS. This process will inform our list maintenance process that will begin next week, the week of March 13th.

We are also taking steps to fully implement new legislation ahead of the 2024 election cycle. After the congressional review period ends and the laws are enacted, we will be

able to procure the necessary services.

If enacted, we will need to become compliant with the Elections Modernization

Amendment Act of 2022, the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022, and the Automatic Voter Registration Act.

We are also in the process of revising our brochures and we met with our vendor to discuss what site improvements. Additionally, we are updating the Election Worker Training Manual, developing the 2024 Voter Education Outreach Plan, and accessing our plan for vote center and mail ballot drop box locations.

Other administrative matters for voter education and outreach. During the month of February the Voter Education and Outreach Division conducted three outreach events on behalf of the Agency. We conducted voter registration drives at Phelps ACE High School, Victory Heights, and the Excalibur Group at the Adell C. White Workforce Center.

As far as our voter registration

roles, in February we registered 1,678 new voters and processed 2,368 registration changes. In total, we prepared 4,046 voter registration cards to be mailed.

Additionally, 37 registered voters moved out of D.C., sixteen voters cancelled their registration and registered with other jurisdictions, and 1,259 voters registered in D.C. and cancelled their registrations in other states.

We are continuing to register voters using our website portal. To date we have processed 34,206 applications using the portal and these include new registrations and updates to existing registrations.

On March 1st we had our performance oversight hearing. This was our first hearing under the Committee on Executive Administration and Labor with Chairperson Councilmember Anita Bonds. We are appreciative of the constructive written testimony that was provided prior to the oversight hearing.

We have followed up with the

Councilmember's office and are gathering the

information she requested. We have also

scheduled regular meetings with the Councilmember

and her staff. During the hearing I indicated

that our list maintenance process would begin

this month and, as stated, we will begin next

week and information will be placed on our

website under the list maintenance header.

Finally, I will note that we were recently asked to identify 25 percent in non-personnel services reductions as part of the FY 2024 budget process. If enacted, the 25 percent reduction will have a significant impact as we continue to plan for the 2024 election cycle.

That concludes my report. Thank you.

I just want to add to that my thank you to

Councilmember Bonds and her staff for the

oversight hearing. I listened to the entire

thing. It was very thorough and informative.

It's been a smooth transition from Councilmember

Allen. I thought Councilmember Bonds and her

2.1

staff did a great job reviewing our work and providing support. I just want to add my thanks to them if anyone is out there today listening.

So I think, with that, General Council Terri Stroud has some rulemaking measures and then litigation and status updates.

MS. STROUD: Good morning, everyone. The first item on my agenda is final rulemaking. The rulemaking would amend Chapters 30, 33, 37, and 42 and would place the Board's regulations into conformity with the Campaign Finance Reform Act and other legislation.

I will defer to the Office of Campaign Finance's General Counsel Mr. William Sanford to discuss the rulemaking. I will say that this rulemaking was introduced in emergency and proposed form during the Board's January meeting.

It was placed in the D.C. Register.

No comments were received so I just wanted Mr.

Sanford to provide some background in terms of what the rules will accomplish once they are published in the D.C. Register at which point

they will become final.

MR. SANFORD: Thank you, General Counsel Stroud.

Good morning, Mr. Chairman, and distinguished Board Member Boggs. I am William Sanford, General Counsel for the Office of Campaign Finance. As my colleague Ms. Stroud had indicated, the Board approved the emergency proposed rulemaking on these matters during the January 4, 2023 monthly meeting. They were published in the D.C. Register and the Office of Campaign Finance did not receive any comments or any objections.

In summary, the final rulemaking will include identifying or requiring that Independent Expenditure Committee establish separate and segregated accounts for contributions and non-contributions. In addition, rulemaking will also indicate or require mandatory training for treasurers and candidates may be conducted either in person or virtually.

Rulemaking also includes what is a

significant change in the regs which is the covered contract provisions. That became effective in November of 2022 and these provisions provide that any contractor who currently holds a contract with the District government, or is competing for a contract with the District government is prohibited from making contributions to political campaigns.

The rulemaking also includes amendments to the publication of the biannual report that the Office of Campaign Finance is required to produce during odd-numbered years. Also includes that the personal funds of candidates are not considered contributions in the traditional program.

In the Fair Elections Program the personal funds a candidate might contribute is limited to \$2,500. In the traditional program, there are no limitations so they are not limited to the contribution restrictions. Further, it amends the covered contract provisions and it identifies which candidates these provisions

apply to.

It also identifies limitations on the expenditure of campaign funds that has been established for over 20 years so it restates those limitations. It prohibits the use of government resources for campaign purposes, and finally, it amends the schedule of funds.

That is a brief -- very brief summary of the final rulemaking that we respectfully ask the Board to approve.

MS. STROUD: And so on behalf of the Office of Campaign Finance I would ask that the Board move to permit the Office of the General Counsel to submit the final rulemaking to the D.C. Register through the Office of Documents and Administrative Issuances so that it can be published in the D.C. Register not this coming Friday but the next coming Friday at which point the rulemaking would become effective.

CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. Thank you. So moved with all the detail that you just cited.

1 MS. STROUD: So, I guess we'll need to 2 take a vote. CHAIR THOMPSON: Looks like J.C. is 3 4 trying to unmute. Maybe he has to be -- Randy 5 has to unmute. 6 MEMBER BOGGS: There we go. That is 7 I will not mute myself again. Did you 8 make a motion? 9 CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes. 10 MEMBER BOGGS: Okay. I second that. 11 I would just add I was impressed with all the deliberation and what looks like hard work that 12 went into this. It can be tedious in drafting 13 14 these things so for Terry and others involved with that, I commend them. 15 16 MS. STROUD: Mainly Mr. Sanford and 17 his staff. 18 MEMBER BOGGS: Thank you. Thank you 19 very much. 20 MS. STROUD: We will be submitting 21 this to the D.C. Register for publication next 22 week. Thank you.

1 So the next item on the agenda is 2 litigation. 3 MEMBER BOGGS: Just to make sure, 4 Gary, so we did mover that, right? 5 MEMBER BOGGS: Thank you. Yes, it was seconded 6 CHAIR THOMPSON: 7 and all in favor. 8 MS. STROUD: Thank you. Sorry for 9 jumping the gun. So the next item on my agenda is litigation status. We have five items. 10 The 11 first is Public Interest Legal Foundation v. Executive Director Monica Evans in her official 12 13 capacity. 14 That's in the U.S. District Court for 15 the District of Columbia. This matter was filed in that court under the National Voter 16 17 Registration Act, or the NVRA. The suit alleges 18 that the Board is out of compliance with the 19 NVRA's Public Records Provision. 20 PILF requested records from the Board 21 and that request was denied due to the requested

records not being subject to disclosure.

22

The

Office of the Attorney General filed a motion to dismiss on February 3rd. The complainant filed a response on February 17th. This was all in 2022. The OAG filed a reply on March 17th.

In late September of 2022 the U.S.

District Court Judge assigned to the case was appointed to the D.C. Circuit which meant that the case required reassignment. On February 21st it was reassigned to Judge Reyes. So all subsequent pleadings have been filed and we are simply awaiting a decision in that matter.

The next four matters involve the Board's Office of the General Counsel filing petitions for enforcement of Office of Campaign Finance orders, imposing fines for failure to timely file the January 31, 2021 Report of Receipts and Expenditures.

As you will recall, in January of this year the Board authorized our office to proceed in Superior Court by filing these petitions for enforcement. These four matters are the D.C. Board of Elections v. Jacques Patterson. This

OCF enforcement matter was filed in D.C. Superior Court on January 25th. The case has been set for an initial status hearing before Judge Dayson on April 28th of 2023.

The next matter is D.C. Board of Elections v. Marlena Edwards. This was filed on February 15th. The case has been set for a show cause hearing before the judge in chambers on March 20th of this year.

The next matter is D.C. Board of Elections V. Courtney Snowden. This matter was filed in D.C. Superior Court on February 15th. The case has been set for a show cause hearing before the judge in chambers on March 21st.

And, finally, in D.C. Board of

Elections v. Lamont Harrell. This was filed in

D.C. Supervisor Court on February 15th and this

case has been set for a show cause hearing before

the judge in chambers on March 17th.

That concludes the litigation status.

This is not on the agenda but I just wanted to report that I will be presenting

tomorrow in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Board Hearing on the District's 2022 election cycle and plans for the 2024 election cycle.

I'll be presenting as a member of the Election Officials Technical Committee for MCOG, as the Council of Governments is called, along with counterparts from Maryland and Virginia.

That's tomorrow during the Board's meeting which will take place from 12:00 to 2:00 virtually.

That concludes my report.

CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. Thank you. Thank you for covering that hearing tomorrow.

Moving on Campaign Finance Report,
General Counsel William Sanford.

MR. SANFORD: Thank you again, Mr. Chairman and distinguished Board Member Bogs. First, the Office of Campaign Finance attended the Performance Oversight Hearing before the committee on the Executive Administration and Labor on Wednesday, March 1, 2023.

Since that hearing, the Office of Campaign Finance has submitted the information requested regarding national trends in public financing to the committee.

Going on, the Report of the Director in its entirety will be published at the OCF website later today, but I will give a summary of the significant events that occurred during the month of February 2023.

The Office of Campaign Finance attended four Advisory Neighborhood Commission meetings and made presentations regarding the Traditional and Fair Elections Program. On the following dates the office attended ANC-3B on February 9th, ANC-3A on February 21st, ANC-5A on February 22nd, and ANC-5F on February 28th.

The Office of the Campaign Finance under the Fair Elections Division made two disbursements during the month of February to candidates who were active in the 2023 election cycle. The first disbursement was made to Michael Sheriki in the amount of \$200. The

second disbursement was made to Matthew Fillerman in the amount of \$1,750. Both the specimens were made on the 9th of February 2023.

The Fair Elections Division concluded 42 desk reviews and issued 16 requests for additional information. As of February 28, 2023 the total sum of \$667,679.43 has been remitted for deposit to the Fair Elections Fund from Campaign operations for participating candidates in the 2022 election cycle.

The Fair Elections Division has completed some post-election audit for the 2020 election cycle including the special election.

An audit of the Keysean Theater award to special election 2020, Principle Campaign Committee, was issued on February 3, 2023.

A final audit of the Frazer Award for Principle Campaign Committee was issued on February 13, 2023. A final audit of the Vincent Orange 2020 Principle Campaign Committee was issued on February 3, 2023. And a final audit of Randy Downs for Ward 2 was issued on February 23,

2023.

In the Public Information and Records
Management Division a total required filing of
receipts and expenditures for the January 31st
report was 101, 81 filed on time three requested
an extension, and 17 failed to timely report.

In the Fair Elections Division the January 31st report 37 were required, 29 were received, six extensions were requested and granted, and two failed to file. In the Independent Expenditure Committee requirement is to file by January 31st. Eight were required to file and all eight timely filed.

Initiative Referendum Committee, eight were required to file, two timely filed, and six failed to file. The Recall Committees, there was one required filer who failed to file. In the Inaugural Committee there was one requested filer who timely filed.

Under Advisory Neighborhood Commission filers there was a total of 458 required filers.

Three hundred and thirty-one filed timely, one

requested an extension which was granted, and 127 failed to timely file.

The Audit Division conducted a total of 55 desk audits, reviewed four constituent services funds, reviewed 39 principle campaign committees, and reviewed 147 Advisory

Neighborhood Commission candidate submissions.

Finally, under this report, the office has identified the following committees for full field audits as a result of the 2023 election cycle. Mendelson for Chairman 2022, Kenyon McDuffie 2022, Eric Goulet, State Board of Education, Boyle U.S. Representative.

In the General Counsel Division during the month of February 2023 the Office of the General Counsel received three referrals, completed 25 informal hearings, and issued 25 audits which included the following: 15 orders were issued in which a \$26,825 in fines were imposed, and 10 orders were issued in which no fines were imposed.

The details regarding the individual

responding committees that received fines will be posted at the OCF website later today. During the month of February the Office of Campaign Finance, General Counsel Division, received payments for two fines by the following respondents: a fine of \$150 was paid by George Douglas, a candidate in the 2020 election cycle, and a fine of \$525 was paid by the Credit Union of D.C.

During the month of February 2023 there were no new investigations initiated.

During the month of February 2023 there were no requests for interpretive opinion, nor were there any show cause proceedings conducted.

That concludes my report. The contents of my report and the Director's Report will be posted at the OCF website later today on today's date, March 7, 2023.

CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. Thank you so much. I guess my only question is, I think there's a couple of open investigations that you have still?

MR. SANFORD: There are still two open investigations which are nearing their completion.

CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay. All right.

With that, unless anybody has anything else for our agenda, I'll turn to public comment.

Anything else from any directors or counsel? All right. Thank you for all that.

We always have plenty of time to hear from our D.C. residents. As everybody knows, I don't keep strict time limits. We ask people to limit to roughly three minutes. At this time I would welcome any D.C. residents to raise a Zoom hand and we'll unmute you. We would love to hear from you.

Not seeing any hands yet. For technical reasons we'll just wait a little bit to make sure. I knew we would have a meeting at some point in 2023 where there was no public comment. We are always open for your comments by email and at all of our meetings.

So seeing no hands raised, I think

1	that concludes our meeting. I don't think			
2	there's any more business to be done today. With			
3	that I would move we adjourn.			
4	MEMBER BOGGS: I'll second that.			
5	CHAIR THOMPSON: In favor?			
6	MEMBER BOGGS: Aye. Thank you, Gary.			
7	CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. Thank you			
8	everybody. See you next time.			
9	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter			
10	went off the record at 11:01 a.m.)			
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<u>C E R T I F I C A T E</u>

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Board Meeting

Before: DC BOE

Date: 03-07-23

Place: teleconference

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate complete record of the proceedings.

Court Reporter

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